

technique of urography. A chapter on diseases of the prostate is included together with a discussion of transurethral prostatic resections as practiced in England. This important and live subject is dealt with inadequately and gives misleading ideas of present-day procedures and results. The same group of cases with the same high operative mortality described in the 1936 edition are again reported in the 1946 book. An incomplete channelling type of operation is again advised and no mention is made of the important advances and improvements in this procedure during the last decade.

Continued and careful study of the book reveals a wealth of material. The section on bladder tumors is especially well done, although the suggested massive cystoscopic coagulation of the larger papillomas is quite laborious and cumbersome when compared to present-day rapid and more thorough transurethral resection methods.

The book is easy to read, concise, easy to handle, printed on good paper, and the illustrations are numerous and well done. Especially commendable are the colored cystoscopic drawings, illustrating the different bladder lesions. Any failure to make this new edition as up-to-date as it might be is partly compensated for by emphasis on fundamentals that have stood the test of time; while not taking the place of our recently published urologic texts, this book is definitely an addition to the cystoscopist's library.

\* \* \*

**MAY'S MANUAL OF THE DISEASES OF THE EYE—For Students and General Practitioners.** 20th Edition. Charles A. Perere, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, N. Y. 378 Illustrations—32 plates with 93 colored figures. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1949. \$5.00.

Since its first edition this book has become one of the American medical classics. As stated in the first edition, the book is intended as a concise, practical and systematic manual of the diseases of the eye for the medical student and the general practitioner of medicine.

The twentieth edition has been completely revised and reset, and many portions of the text have been rewritten. Many of the black-and-white illustrations of the 19th edition which had outlived their distinctness have been omitted or have been replaced by new cuts. The chapter on the diseases of the conjunctiva has been revised and under therapy the newer antibiotics have been discussed. The chapter on the diseases of the optic nerve has been rewritten. One wonders if the long chapter on the complicated subject of disturbances of motility of the eye has a place in a book of this character.

Dr. Perera is to be congratulated on the fact that in the rather extensive revision he has not changed the original purpose or character of the book.

The printing and general format are a distinct improvement over the preceding edition.

The book should maintain its popularity and continue to serve as a reliable and practical introduction to the practice of ophthalmology.

\* \* \*

**A SYNOPSIS OF MEDICINE.** By Sir Henry Letheby Tidy, K.B.E., M.A., M.D., Extra Physician to H.M. the King, Consulting Physician to St. Thomas' Hospital. Ninth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$7.50.

Nine editions of this well-known English synopsis of medicine may "rather strongly imply usefulness" as one reviewer has said, but it is difficult to determine under what circumstances. To encompass all of medical knowledge in 1,146 pages and do justice to each subject is perhaps asking too much of any author, and Sir Henry has made a brave attempt. The book, however, leaves much to be desired in

the way of accuracy, completeness and clarity. Controversial subjects, especially in the realm of therapy, are briefly disposed of with positive statements as though the issue were closed. Criteria for prognosis are set up which seem to be at best based on clinical impressions of the author's, and are at times at variance with the literature. Questionable statements as to etiology, pathology and symptomatology may be readily found. The outline form necessitates too much brevity, and numerous cross references further decrease the usefulness, even for a quick review. And yet the author stops to define "watery eyes—the tear that never drops"! Numerous lists of symptoms are given without indication of which are important and significant.

Examples of the above:

Page 665—"Malignant hypertension has no existence apart from malignant nephrosclerosis."

Page 665—"Physical signs of benign hypertrophy—Cardiac hypertrophy always develops."

Page 665—"Treatment of benign hypertension by diet: "No red meat," "strict salt-free diet not advisable," "colonic irrigation once a week!"

Page 795—"Histology of kidneys in malignant hypertension: "See benign hypertrophy, but all changes more advanced and more extensive."

In view of the above the reviewer does not believe that Tidy's "Synopsis of Medicine" in any way replaces the many excellent textbooks now available. It is useful as a compendium and has a great deal of valuable information and therefore may have a place for the student who is preparing for examination. It is, however, not recommended as a textbook for medical students desiring more extensive coverage of the field of medicine.

\* \* \*

**A TWENTIETH CENTURY PHYSICIAN, Being the Reminiscences of Sir Arthur Hurst, D.M.** The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$3.50.

Sir Arthur Hurst was well known in this country and his brilliant work was fully appreciated. But few realized the many facets of his interesting character which are revealed in this little book of memoirs. Hurst is a natural raconteur and one's interest never flags as he reads through the author's vivid recollections of his childhood, medical school experiences, and thus on through his varied and exciting career. The war passages are of especial interest and the thumbnail sketches of innumerable interesting and important people constantly surprise one with unexpected bits of information. It is greatly to be regretted that Sir Arthur's sudden death prevented the narrative from being carried through his later years. A few typographical errors, mostly in spelling of proper names—such as Trousseau for Trousseau—are to be found on pp. 99, 106, 175 and 181; they will no doubt be corrected in a subsequent printing.

\* \* \*

**AN ATLAS OF HUMAN SEX ANATOMY.** By Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D., F.A.C.S. A Topographical Hand Atlas. Medical Aspects of Human Fertility Series Issued by the National Committee on Maternal Health. Second Edition. 1949. \$10.00.

Your reviewer cannot refrain from quoting the introductory paragraph of the preface to the second edition because it describes so poignantly the intent behind the compilation of facts and factors which make up the substance of Dickinson's "Atlas of Human Sex Anatomy." Dickinson expressed his reason for bringing forth a book on sex anatomy as follows:

"The first principle of sex education and marriage counselling gives attitudes precedence over anatomies. Yet function has structure for its machinery, and evasion of instruction concerning anatomy in action is in part responsible for the physical discord alleged by participants to be the